Thursday, April 16th

Harrow Hospital
Private ward, Roxeth Hill
Harrow
Middlesex
1970

Dearest René,

This can't be a letter, as I'm too weary, dull-witted, & half-asleep to think – & filled with various forms of drugs they dole out – but, damn & blast it awakes like anything during the night, mostly, but I feel I must write this note to my old pal for both letters – one a bit back & the other yesterday. Thank you & Joan for all you say & much love.

Yes, Mametz again, as you say, but a bloody sight worse. They reckon ~~technolog~~ technologically speaking it's been perfect.

You know how the femur-bones hinge in at the top called the 'head' & are joined to the pelvis of a large round bone – forgotten its name – anyway in falling I smashing the bone on the left side – I thought it but it

②

a steel one instead – in negative it
looks like a piece white circular
ball – of steel, – well, right leg
is O.K. – I ~~have~~ now have to
practice trying to walk with a steel
~~from~~ frame, hands pressed on a
bar of steel contraption – down
the corridor — it's not so easy
as it sounds. ~~&~~ damned exhausting.
But by far the worst part of
the whole damned business is this
water-works, bed-pan stuff. It's
far, far more ignominious, embarrassing,
etc. than I had remembered – in
fact, in thinking for hours on end
of all the trials, pains, miseries,
of the human race, I'm beginning
to think that these 'ordinary'
'accustomed' things – are
more demanding of 'bravery' or
what ever the word is – I
suppose that's ~~why~~ why one
has ~~[illegible]~~ always thought of

③

Women as more 'brave' than men, because they take for granted these things of the body — (as child birth & all that. ~~whereas~~ whereas we (?) Think & can, more easily endure active pains, of as in war, etc. — I suppose my stuff was on the whole been central round the Queen of Heaven & a cult hero — ~~the~~ Son & Spouse. ~~Anyway~~ my you know what I mean.

Seen a number of Irishmen of late. And, incidentally, before my accident, I ~~[illegible]~~ have been also reading a lot in your Chanson de Roland — It's so bloody good René.

Routledge brought me a copy of a translation of Dorothy Sayers. But yours is, well,

~~two~~ many hundred times better..
I do wish it could be re-published
with French opposite English.
Can't manage more now
much love to Joan &
yourself David.

Valerie has been staying
this last week & sends
you her love.
D